

[Translated from Russian]

**The Ukrainian government is ridden with a nationalistic spirit, Peskov said**

<https://ria.ru/20240326/ukraina-1935874985.html>

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MOSCOW, March 26 - RIA Novosti. The nationalist spirit has permeated the leadership of the Kyiv regime, Russian Presidential Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Answering a question if the Kremlin allows for the possibility, that the Islamists who committed the terrorist attack may be connected with the Ukrainian leadership, given the fact, that at the head of it is standing a Jew, Peskov said "There's a peculiar Jew standing there. A Jew who in many ways is showing sympathy and inclination towards the [Ukrainian] nationalist spirit that permeated the leadership of the Kyiv regime. This, one can say, is completely unambiguous, based on facts, based on statements,"

Shooting and fire took place on the evening of March 22 before the beginning of a concert at Crocus City Hall in Krasnogorsk near Moscow. A RIA Novosti correspondent who witnessed the incident reported that several men in camouflage and without masks burst into the hall, and started shooting people at point-blank range and throwing incendiary bombs.

According to the latest data from the Investigative Committee, 139 people died. The chief editor of the Rossiya Segodnya media group and the RT television channel, Margarita Simonyan, reported that the number of victims had risen to 143. According to the Ministry of Emergency Situations, 152 people were injured as a result of the terrorist attack. The twenty-fourth of March was declared a day of national mourning.

Russian President Vladimir Putin noted that all four perpetrators of the terrorist attack were found and detained - they tried to escape and were moving towards Ukraine, where a "window" was prepared for them on the Ukrainian side to cross the border. The Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs reported that they were foreigners. The President noted that a total of 11 people were detained, and security forces are working to uncover the entire terrorist base. According to the FSB, the weapons used by the terrorists were prepared in advance in a cache.

Putin said that Russia was faced not just with a carefully cynically planned terrorist attack, but with a prepared and organized mass murder of civilians. The President emphasized that all perpetrators, organizers and those who contracted this crime will suffer fair and inevitable punishment.